

THE MORNING ASTORIAN

Established 1873.

Published Daily by THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year\$7.00
By mail, per month..... .60
By carrier, per month..... .75

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance..\$1.00

Entered as second-class matter June 2, 1895, at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



Orders for the delivering of THE MORNING ASTORIAN to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or through tele-grams. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

WEATHER TODAY

Portland, Nov. 13.—Western Oregon: Generally fair.
Western Washington: Partly cloudy with probable showers.
Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington: Fair.

INFLUENCE OF CHILDREN.

The real influence of children lies in their exquisite innocence. No man or woman grown gray in the turmoil and strain of life can hope to be "as a little child." The incubus of knowledge is appalling even to the one that has sought the knowledge and possesses it. The adult reasons from the hypothesis of what he or she knows of life, society, human conditions, frailties, temperaments, and the thousand and one besetting and obligatory rules by which every event in life is gauged and criticized. The child reasons from the standpoint of pure inexperience and every word it utters and every act it performs, is spontaneous, and being spontaneous, it is pure, whatever the tenor of the word, or character of the act. "Except ye become as little children" is a text that has driven many a man into hermitage, because he could not dwell with men and women and approach the standard of loveliness demanded by the great teacher of men.

HIGHEST OF DUTIES.

The first and highest duty of a Board of School Directors is to safeguard the innocence and purity of the children within its province. This duty, the manipulation of the ordinary affairs of the district shall receive careful consideration. Primarily, the members of the board are responsible to the parents of the children for the nature of the supervision and care to which they are subjected, daily. If this is not of the cleanest and best and most wholesome, then a direct injury has been done to every child involved in the blunder, and like all public blunders is susceptible only of instant rectification at the hands of the blunderers. If the qualifying change comes quickly enough, perhaps the ill-effect of the original mistake may be eliminated, or, at least, so modified as to leave the school and its children open to the newer influence and the harm threatened may be thus averted. The school board that knows the danger, and deliberately ignores it in order to save itself from the charge of having blundered, is not fit for the responsibility imposed upon it by law and by every precept of good citizenship.

RUSSIA'S NEW GOSPEL.

There is not the slightest cause for wonder that the people of Russia repudiate the new overtures of peace and freedom offered them by the Government. After 300 years of intolerable oppression, in which all that made for the degradation of the race was permitted and encouraged by the fountain head of final authority in the land, it is hard

to make the poor miserable wretches believe anything that emanates, unasked, from such a source. They have never looked for anything but brutal, venal, gross and ruinous doctrines and practices from this abode of power, and that a gospel of good-will, of freedom, of humane spirit, of personal immunity, of electoral privilege and function, should come to them, spontaneously, from the very Government itself, is too wondrous for human credulity. Of course they don't believe it; and unbelieving, they plunge into new atrocities in order to avenge the newer and craftier game they believe their rulers are up to. Only years of patience can overcome the awful gulf that divides the hundreds of millions of enslaved and brutalized hosts of Russia from their government, and bring them to a realization of what is actually meant by the strange propaganda of decency and toleration and clean administration. The task of bringing this awful host of abnormal creatures in line upon a system of mutuality and forbearance and common helpfulness, is one of mighty proportions and must involve several generations to compass it. The first step in the tremendous undertaking, is to divest the Imperial family and the court of every vestige of power over human life and liberty and transfer the prerogative to the courts of the land; put the officers of the Government upon an electoral basis, from top to bottom, and create a parliament that shall check the play of individual and irresponsible power forever, and give the people some open, constant sign of their real freedom, that they may learn the sooner the splendor of the gift that is theirs.

LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS.

The American Library Association proposes to create a fund for the establishment and maintenance of a national headquarters for the public libraries of this country. The scheme is not only to educate trained librarians and assistants but to secure a central point for the dissemination of data valuable to the librarian. It is observed with accuracy that few occupations have increased their opportunities so rapidly in the past twenty years and few have received less skilled labor. With large investments in their care, many custodians of public institutions know little of the books on their shelves and are unfitted through lack of proper education to fill their positions. Some of the greater institutions have been so fortunate as to secure capable men and these libraries are now bringing up a generation of apprentices who will be able to earn their salaries. But in many instances, through the great increase in the number of libraries by the Carnegie fund and state law or municipal ordinance, it has been necessary to appoint men unable to fill the requirements.

HELPLESS INDEED.

The shocking barbarities on Christian missionaries in China are but a faint replica of the atrocities against the Jews in Russia. We rightly assume that only savages can be guilty of such horrible crimes. Yet while the victims in China are Christians, professing Christians are the perpetrators of the atrocities in Russia. Some sort of redress for the acts of the Chinese fiends, who may be punished because there is no redress for the frightful wrongs the Jews have suffered in Russia. The unhappy victims are subjects of a Government which has placed them under the ban and refuses to protect them. No other nation has a right, according to the comity of nations and the principles of international law, to interfere in their behalf, and they are thus abandoned to every torture and outrage brutish malignancy and besotted bigotry can devise. Surely their fate is one that appeals to the sympathy of civilized humanity. It is horrible to think that there is no relief for their sufferings, no remedy for wrongs so terrible and heart-rending.

HE DID HIS DUTY.

It may or not be significant, but the fact that President Roosevelt declined to write letters endorsing the Republican candidates for Governor in Ohio and Massachusetts and the Republican candidate for mayor of New York is nevertheless worthy of interest. Attorney General Moody took the stump in Massachusetts and so did Secretary Root in New York, and Secretary Bonaparte in Maryland, while Secretary Taft made one speech in Ohio, but the President refrained from any personal expression during the campaign. He made many speeches while the campaign was in progress, but if what he said had any political significance, in the partisan sense, at all, it was an encouragement to independent voting. Secretary Shaw spoke of course, in many states, but he is to retire from the Cabinet on February 1, and is an avowed candidate for the Presidency, he is not to be regarded as a spokesman for the administration.

AGE MAKES IT RANKER.

Some champions of George Bernard Shaw refer to the antiquity of Mrs. Warren's profession as an evidence of the propriety of making it the subject of dramatic representation. They will hardly deny, however, that it was always an unclean and demoralizing trade. The slave in Pericles of Tyre says, "it is a stinking business; it smells to heaven." Indeed, it was always so. Age has not bushed it or clothed it with the mantle of respectability. Its innate in-

decency is of such a peculiar character as to forbid decent treatment on the stage. Because it is a variety of moral rotteness ever present in the social organism, and apparently irradicable, is no reason why it should be paraded on the stage or glorified by dramatists. The age of the devil has never yet been cited to prove his work respectable. Mrs. Warren's profession stank at the beginning. It still stinks. It has not improved with age.

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